RULES

MADE UNDER

THE FOREST ACT (ACT VII OF 1878),

AND

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOVERNMENT

FOR THE

FORESTS OF THE LOWER PROVINCES, BENGAL.

With other Departmental Orders.

CALCUTTA:

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1882.

RULES

FOR THE

FORESTS OF THE LOWER PROVINCES, BENGAL.

1.—POWERS OF FOREST OFFICERS (General).

Notification dated 28th July 1879.

UNDER sections 2 and 75 (*a*) of Act VII of 1878 (the Indian Forest Act), the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct that the officers of the Forest Department in Bengal, mentioned in the first column of the following schedule, shall exercise the powers of "Forest Officers" under the sections of the Forest Act mentioned in the second column of the same, over against each such class of officers respectively:—

Class of officers empowered.	Section of the Act under which powers are given.	Brief description of nature of powers conferred.
I.—All Deputy Conservators, Assistant Conservators, and Sub-Assistant Conservators—when in charge of Forest Divisions.	20	Power to publish translation of notification of reserved forests.
	25	Power to permit prohibited acts in reserved forests.
	33	Power to permit prohibited acts in protected forests.
	45	Power to notify depôts for drift timber, &c.
	46	Power to issue notice to claimants of drift timber, &c.
	47	Power to decide claims to drift timber, &c.
	50	Power to receive payments on account of drift timber, &c.
	60	Power to direct release of property seized.
	67	Power to compound offences.
	82	Power to sell forest produce for Government dues.
II.—All Deputy Conservators, Assistant Conservators, Sub-Assistant Conservators, Rangers and Foresters subordinate to any officer of Class I—when specially authorised in that behalf by the Conservator of Forests.	25	Power to permit prohibited acts in reserved forests.
	33	Power to permit prohibited acts in protected forests.
	60	Power to direct release of property seized.
	67	Power to compound offences.

Class of officers empowered	Section of the Act under which powers are given.	Brief description of nature of powers conferred
III—All Deputy Conservators, Assistant Conservators, Sub Assistant Conservators, Rangers, Foresters, and Forest Guards, whether on permanent or temporary establishments.	45	Power of collecting drift timber, &c.
	52	Power to seize property liable to confiscation.
	55	Power to take charge of Government or confiscated property.
	56	Power to accept charge of property when offender is unknown.
	63	Power to arrest without warrant in certain cases.
	69	Power to seize and impound cattle trespassing.
	82	Power to take possession of produce under Government lien.

2. The Conservator of Forests is empowered to exercise all or any of the powers conferred on his subordinate officers in the foregoing schedule.

3. The Conservator of Forests is empowered, under section 24 of the Act, with the previous sanction of the Commissioner of the Division, to stop ways and water-courses in reserved forests subject to the provisions of that section.

2.—GRANT OF REWARDS (General).

Notification dated the 23rd October 1880.

THE following rules, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor under section 75(*b*) of the Indian Forest Act, VII of 1878, are hereby published for general information:—

RULES FOR THE GRANT OF REWARDS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND OTHERS IN CASES UNDER THE INDIAN FOREST ACT.

All non-gazetted Government officers and persons not in the employ of Government are eligible for rewards under these rules.

2. Any Magistrate convicting an offender of any forest offence, or directing the confiscation of any property under section 56 of the Act, may grant, in such proportion as he thinks fit, to any person or persons who have contributed to the seizure of the property or the conviction of the offender, a reward not exceeding the value of the property confiscated, *plus* the amount of any fine imposed.

3. The forest officer prosecuting the case may, if no reward is granted by the Magistrate, apply to the Magistrate for orders regarding the distribution of fines and the value of forfeitures. In the event of the Magistrate's refusal, reference may be made by the Conservator of Forests to the local Government.

4. Rewards granted under these rules shall be disbursed at once if they are less than Rs. 100. If they are over Rs. 100, that sum only will be disbursed at once, and the rest, after the period of appeal has expired or the appeal has been rejected. In the event of the conviction

being reversed on appeal, the amount paid in rewards shall not be recovered from the persons to whom it has been paid unless it shall appear that they have acted fraudulently.

5. In cases where, under section 67 of the Indian Forest Act, a Forest Officer has accepted a sum of money as compensation for any damage which has been committed, the Conservator of Forests may authorise the payment of a portion of the amount realised as a reward to any person who may have contributed to the discovery of the offender.

3.—EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS.

Resolution of the Government of India, No. 23 of 15th October 1878

In exercise of the power conferred by the thirty-third and thirty-fourth of Victoria, cap. fifty-nine, section two, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to declare that the undermentioned classes of the deeds, contracts, and other instruments referred to in the twenty-second and twenty-third of Victoria, cap. forty-one, section two, may be executed as follows:—

Contracts and other instruments in matters connected with the administration of forests and with the business of the Forest Department generally.	By Conservators, Deputy Assistant and Sub-Assistant Conservators of Forests, to such extent and within such limits as the local Government may prescribe by notification in the official Gazette.

Notification dated 12th November 1878

In accordance with the terms of the resolution of 15th October 1878, all gazetted officers of the Forest Department who have qualified for the charge of a forest division as prescribed in paragaph 17 of the Forest Code are hereby authorised to execute contracts and other instruments in matters connected with the administration of forests and with the business of the Forest Department generally, provided that before the execution of any contract involving an expenditure of more than Rs. 1,000 the sanction of the Conservator of Forests must be obtained. In cases in which the contract or other instrument refers to works extending over a series of years, the sanction of the local Government is necessary. No officer of the Forest Department may execute any deed for the purchase and sale of land or any interest in land.

4.—DRIFT TIMBER COLLECTION AREAS.

Notification dated the 3rd November 1879

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to direct that, in accordance with section 45 of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, the following shall be the areas within which all unmarked wood and timber shall be the property of Government, unless and until any person establishes

his right and title thereto under the provisions of the said Act and the rules made under it:—

(*a*)—The following rivers in the districts of Darjeeling and Julpigori, together with their tributaries, so far as they flow through British territory, down to the southern boundary of those districts:—

1. Mechi river.
2. Chenga.
3. Balasan.
4. Mahanadi.
5. Teesta.
6. Jaldaka.
7. Doodooa
8. Moojnaee.
9. Toorsa.
10. Booree Toorsa river.
11. Kalajani.
12. Darsi.
13. Raidak.
14. Kalkali.
15. Sunkos.

(*b*)—The seashore and the rivers and creeks in the districts of the 24-Pergunnahs and Jessore, so far as they are included within the boundary of the reserved and protected forests of the Sunderbuns.

5.—RULES REGARDING HUNTING, SHOOTING, AND FISHING.

Rules under Section 25 (i) of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, dated 28th July 1879

Rule I.—No person shall, unless it be necessary in defence of the life or limb of himself or some other, kill or wound any elephant, or catch or attempt to catch elephants, in any part of a reserved forest.

Rule II.—No person shall set snares or traps in any reserved forest.

Rule III.—The Forest Officer may, with the sanction of the local Government, close any reserved forest, or any part of such forest against hunting, shooting, or fishing.

Rule IV.—Nothing in Rules I to III shall be deemed to prohibit any act done with the permission in writing of the Forest Officer or of the local Government.

Notification of 23rd October 1880.

THE Lieutenant-Governor directs that the following rule be substituted for Rule II of the rules under section 25 (*i*) of the Indian Forest Act VII of 1878, published in part I, page 777 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 30th July 1879:—"No person shall set snares or traps, or poison water, in any reserved forest."

6.—RULES FOR THE SUNDERBUNS PROTECTED FORESTS.

Notification dated the 17th August 1880.

THE following revised rules, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor under sections 31 and 41 of the Indian Forest (Act VII of 1878), having received the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, are

hereby published for general information and in supersession of the notification of 13th January 1880 published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th idem. They will take effect in the protected forest tracts of the Sunderbuns described in the schedule annexed to the notifications of the 7th December 1878 and 24th February 1879, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* (of 11th December 1878 and 26th February 1879), and will come into force from the date of their publication :—

Rule I.—No trees, timber, or any other forest produce shall be cut, sawn, gathered, or removed from within the boundaries of the Sunderbuns protected forests without prepayment in full of the charges due thereon at the rates following :—

(1) For every maund of sundri timber, one anna.

(2) For every maund of any other forest produce, ¼ of an anna.

These, or such other charges as may from time to time be fixed under this rule, will also be levied on timber and other forest produce which may be exported from lands leased under the rules for the lease of waste lands in the Sunderbuns.

Rule II.—Any person desiring to enter the Sunderbuns protected forests for the purpose of cutting, sawing, coverting, gathering, or removing trees, timber, or any other forest produce, shall take out a permit or license for the produce which he proposes to remove. The said permit will be granted only on prepayment of the prescribed charges by the officer in charge of the Sunderbuns Forest Division, or by any of his subordinates duly authorised to receive payment and to issue permits.

Rule III.—The holder of a permit or license for the cutting, sawing, conversion, gathering, or removal of any forest produce within the boundaries of the Sunderbuns protected forests, shall produce the said permit or license when called upon to do so by any Forest or Police Officer, and shall further be bound, on leaving the Sunderbuns protected forests, to return the said permit or license to one of the Forest Officers in charge of the revenue stations, a list of which will be notified from time to time in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

Rule IV.—Any forest produce in transit within, or passing out of, the Sunderbuns protected forests, and any such produce found in any water channel skirting or leading from the said forests, when there is reason to believe that anything is payable to the Government in respect of such produce, may be stopped and examined by any Forest or Police Officer.

The following is a list of the revenue stations referred to in Rule III of the above rules :—

1. Lower Bhola.
2. Upper Bhola.
3. Pussur.
4. Khulna.
5. Bhudder.
6. Sheepsah.
7. Koyrah.
8. Cobaduk.
9. Isreepore (Eshamuttee).
10. Bussuntpore.
11. Roymungul.
12. Rampura.
13. Mutlah.
14. Bogee.
15. Saterbag.
16. Tangara Khal.
17. Samukpotha.

7.—RULES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF TIMBER THROUGH THE SUNDERBUNS.

Notification dated the 16th August 1880.

THE following rule, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor under the provisions of section 41 of the Indian Forest Act, having received the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, is hereby published for general information. It will take effect in respect of the forest tracts in the Sunderbuns, both reserved and protected, as described in the schedules attached to the following notifications :—

Reserved forests.—Notification of 23rd January 1879.
Protected „ „ „ 7th December 1878.
„ „ „ „ 24th February 1879.

Any person who desires to transport any forest produce through the Sunderbuns forests, or through any part of them, or along any of the water-channels intersecting or skirting them, shall take out a pass at some of the revenue stations, a list of which will be published from time to time in the *Calcutta Gazette*; and he shall further produce such pass when called upon to do so by any Forest or Police Officer, and return such pass at any one of the said stations on passing out of the boundary of the forest. The fee, if any, payable for such passes will from time to time be fixed by the Conservator of Forests and notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The following is a list of the revenue stations actually open :—

1. Lower Bhola.
2. Upper Bhola.
3. Pussur.
4. Khulna.
5. Bhudder.
6. Sheepsah.
7. Koyrah.
8. Cobaduk.
9. Isreepore (Eshamuttee).
10. Bussuntpore.
11. Roymungul.
12. Mutlah.
13. Bogee.
14. Saterbag.
15. Tangara Khal.
16. Samukpotha.

8.—SUNDERBUNS BOAT REGISTRATION RULES.

Notification dated the 12th September 1880.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to notify, under section 75 of the Indian Forest Act (VII of 1878), that on and after the 1st October next any persons trading in timber or forest produce, or desirous of purchasing and removing forest produce from the reserved and protected forests of the Sunderbuns, may, if they so desire, and in place of having their boats, as heretofore, measured on every occasion that they enter or leave those forests or pass any of the forest toll-stations, have their boats measured once for all, and such measurement

registered by the Deputy Conservator of Forests or his subordinates at any of those toll-stations, viz.—

1. Lower Bhola.
2. Upper Bhola.
3. Pussur.
4. Khulna.
5. Bhudder.
6 Sheepsah.
7. Koyrah
8. Cobaduk.
9 Isreepore (Eshamuttee).
10. Bussuntpore.
11. Roymungul.
12. Mutlah.
13. Bogee.
14. Saterbag.
15. Tangara Khal.
16. Samukpotha.

Such registration will hold good for the period of one year, and may be renewed after the expiry of that period.

Any boat the measurement of which is so registered will not be liable to further remeasurement or detention, either within the forests or at the forest toll-stations, provided—

(1) That the boat does not contain any forest produce other than that entered in the permit; and

(2) That the load does not exceed the registered burden, as shown by the mark on the water-line.

All boats registered will have the maundage and date of measurement painted in letters not less than 4 inches long on both sides of the bow; and amid ships on either side will be painted the water-line, or line showing the loaded draft. This last will be indicated by a circle painted in white, intersected by a red line marking the depth to which the boat may be loaded. This line will be fixed at the pleasure of the manjee before measurement is made, and the measurement will be made accordingly.

The fees payable when a boat is registed for the first time shall be according to the following scale:—

			Rs	A.	P.
Boats not exceeding		50 maunds ...	0	4	0
Above	50 and not exceeding	100 „ ...	0	8	0
„	100 „ „	500 „ ...	0	12	0
„	500 „ „	1,000 „ ...	1	8	0
„	1,000 „ „	2,000 „ ...	2	0	0
„	2,000 „ „	3 000 „ ...	3	0	0
„	3,000 ...	... ...	4	0	0

On renewal of the registration after the expiry of twelve months, fees shall be payable at half the rates given in the above scale, provided that application is made for such renewal of registration within two months of the expiry of the said twelve months. After that period the full fees will be payable as for fresh registration.

9.—SUNDERBUNS DRIFT TIMBER RULES

Notification dated the 16th February 1881.

THE following rules for the collection of drift timber in the Sunderbuns forests, under section 51 of the Indian Forest Act VII of

1878, having been sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, are hereby published for general information :—

Interpretation clause.

I. All words used in these rules and defined in Act VII of 1878 (the Indian Forest Act, 1878) shall be deemed to have the meanings respectively attributed to them by the said Act.

And in these rules 'drift timber' shall mean timber of the descriptions mentioned in section 45 of the said Act.

Procedure to be used in obtaining permits to collect drift timber.

II. Any person who, within the area of the Sunderbuns to which section 45 of the Act has been extended by the Government notification of the 3rd November 1879, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th idem, wishes to salve drift timber, shall apply to the officer in charge of the Sunderbuns Forest Division for a written permit specifying the nature of the timber which he wishes to salve, and shall register the boat or boats to be used in salving.

Every boat so registered shall have conspicuously painted on it its register number, the date of registration, and a letter indicating the revenue station at which such boat was registered. A fee of Rs. 5 shall be levied for each boat for the first registration, and a fee of one-half this amount for every subsequent registration. Every registration shall hold good for one year from the date thereof, provided that if any person shall wish to enter the area defined above for the purpose of salving drift timber, the property of himself or of any known owner, a written permit for this special purpose may be granted him by the officer in charge of the Sunderbuns Forest Division on payment of a fee of Rs. 2 only : but such person shall be bound by all the conditions regarding the registration and marking of his boats laid down in this rule.

Salved timber to be taken to drift timber depôts

III. All timber salved shall be taken with as little delay as possible to the nearest drift timber depôt.

Nothing to prevent chance timber being salved.

IV. Nothing in the preceding rules shall be held to prevent any person lawfully plying a boat within the limits of the Sunderbuns reserved and protected forests from salving any drift timber that he may find

Salved timber which may become vested in Government to be sold by auction.

V. All drift timber salved under these rules, which my become vested in Government under section 48 of the Indian Forest Act, shall be sold by auction within such periods and in such manner as the Conservator of Forests may direct

Amount of salvage.

VI. (*a*)—Any person, whether a Forest Officer or not, who has salved any drift timber, shall be entitled to receive as salvage an amount equivalent to 15 per cent of the estimated value of such drift timber, as adjudged by the Sunderbuns Divisional Officer or by any subordinate officer specially authorised by the Conservator of Forests in that behalf :

(*b*)—Provided that any person authorised by permit to salve drift timber under Rule II shall receive as salvage an amount equivalent to 25 per cent of the estimated value of the drift timber salved by him, such value being adjudged as above provided.

(*c*)—In special cases the Conservator of Forests may increase the amount of salvage to a sum not exceeding 50 per cent of the estimated value of the drift timber salved.

(*d*)—When more persons than one are concerned in salving, the amount of salvage shall be paid to them collectively and on their joint receipt.

Payments required when drift timber is proved to be the property of a claimant.

VII. If the drift timber collected shall be shown under section 47 of the Act to be the property of any person other than Government, such person shall be liable to pay to Government, under section 50 of the Act, the following amounts, viz :—

(1) the actual amount of salvage paid to the salvor;

(2) the actual cost incurred in moving the timber to the drift depôt;

(3) such fees as may from time to time be fixed with the sanction of Government for the storing of timber at such depôt.

Registration of property marks.

VIII. Any person holding a permit under Rule II, who makes use of any property mark or device for marking drift timber salved by him, may register the same in the office of the Sunderbuns Forest Divisional Officer. The fee to be paid for such registration shall be one rupee for the first year and eight annas for each annual renewal. A certificate of registration showing the marks registered shall be given on payment of the prescribed fee.

Penalty clause.

IX. Any person who shall infringe any of these rules shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

10.—ORDERS REGARDING CULTIVATION IN THE SUNDERBUNS PROTECTED FORESTS.

Notification dated 13th January 1880.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased, under section 29(*c*) of Act VII of 1878 (the Indian Forest Act), to prohibit on and from the 14th day of January 1880 the breakiug up or clearing for cultivation or for any other purpose of any land in the protected forest of the Sunderbuns by any persons except persons to whom a written lease of such land has been granted by, or under the authority of, the Government.

11.—SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AND ORDERS UNDER THE SUNDERBUNS RULES.

A.—BY GOVERNMENT.

Notification dated 12th September 1880.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to order that, on and after the 1st October 1880, the following shall be the rates for forest produce

in the Sunderbuns protected forests, in supersession of those published in Rule I of the Rules of the 17th August 1880:—

(1)	On every maund of sundri, pussur, or amoor timber ...	one anna.
(2)	On every maund of keora timber ...	one-half anna.
(3)	„ „ any other forest produce	one-quarter anna.

B.—By the Conservator of Forests.

Notification dated 20th September 1880.

Notice is hereby given that from the 1st October 1880 the following will be the rates for removal of forest produce from the Sunderbuns reserved forests in supersession of those published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of August 1876, Part II, page 790:—

On every maund of sundri, pussur, or amoor timber	one anna.
On every maund of keora timber ...	one half-anna.
„ „ any other produce...	one-quarter anna.

Notification dated 22nd September 1880.

In supersession of the notification published at page 1230 of part II of the *Calcutta Gazette* of 8th September 1880, and dated 30th August 1880, it is notified that under the provisions of the notification of the 16th August 1880, in which persons desirous of transporting any forest produce through the Sunderbuns forests are required to take out a pass at one of the forest toll-stations, paying such fees as may be fixed by the Conservator of Forests, it is hereby notified that the fees payable for such passes will from the 1st October 1880, be the following:—

For sundri, pussur, or amoor timber...	2 pies per maund.
For keora timber	1 pie „
For all other forest produce ...	½ „ „

12.—CHITTAGONG RIVER RULES.

Notification dated 17th October 1881.

The following river rules for the Chittagong Hill Tracts, framed under section 41 of Act VII of 1878, the Indian Forest Act, having been sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor, are published for general information:—

Interpretation clause.

I. All words used in these rules and defined in Act VII of 1878 (the Indian Forest Act, 1878) shall be deemed to have the meanings respectively attributed to them by the said Act.

II. All timber or forest produce which is brought down by the rivers passing out of the Chittagong Hill Tracts shall be liable to stoppage for examination and for the payment of the amounts, if any, due to Government thereon at the revenue stations established on the following rivers, viz.—

Stoppage of produce for examination and for the payment of dues at revenue stations.

Fenny, Droong, Haldah, Kalapaneea, Surtah, Ishamati, Karnafuli, Sylock, Sungoo, Dolu, Hangar, Tankawati, Matamori, Eadgong, Bagkhali, Rezoo, or at such other places as the Lieutenant-Governor shall from time to time, by notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, prescribe.

III. Passes for the removal of timber or forest produce from the reserved forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts may be obtained from—

Removal and passing of produce taken from the reserved forests.

(*a*) the officer in local charge of the forest, or

(*b*) the officer in charge of the Chittagong Forest Division,

on payment of such royalty, or such other payment on account of the price of the materials, as is prescribed by competent authority.

The holder of any such pass shall be entitled on production thereof, to take his timber or forest produce free of further payment, and without stopping, past any revenue station specified in Rule II.

Provided that the officer in charge of any such revenue station may stop any such timber or forest produce, and subject the same to examination.

Any timber or forest produce found in excess of, or of a different kind to, that specified in the pass, may be detained by the said officer until any sums that may be due in respect thereof be paid.

If it shall appear that such excess or different kind of timber or forest produce has been obtained fraudulently, the officer in charge shall seize the same and report the matter for the orders of the officer in charge of the Chittagong Forest Division.

IV. Holders of waste land lots in fee simple within the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and persons whose leases give them the right of removing timber or forest produce without further charge from such lots or lands as are covered by their leases, shall, if they desire to transport such timber or forest produce by river in the manner described in Rule II, apply to the Deputy Commissioner for passes to cover the maximum amount of each kind of timber or forest produce which they expect to export during the year ending on the 31st March next following the date of their application. The amount of each despatch of timber or forest produce shall be entered on the back of such pass, and shall be checked by the officers in charge of the revenue stations at which such timber or forest produce may be stopped under Rule II, after which the same may be removed free of charge.

Procedure required from holders of waste land lots in fee simple, or of leases which give the right of removal of forest produce from the land leased.

V. All timber or forest produce exported from forest tracts not being reserved forests shall be stopped for examination at one of the revenue stations specified in Rule II, and for the levy thereon of the royalty or price fixed by competent authority.

Stoppage of produce from forest tracts not being reserved forests.

VI. The closing up or obstructing of any river used for the transit of timber or forest produce, or the stoppage of navigation on the same, is prohibited. The Deputy Commissioner may order any person who by his act or negligence has caused such closure, obstruction, or stoppage, to remove the same within a time specified, or may cause such obstruction to be cleared, and recover the cost of such clearance from the person by whose act or negligence it was caused.

Obstruction of rivers prohibited, such obstructions to be removed by, or at the cost of, the parties in fault.

VII. All persons engaged in the cutting and export of timber or forest produce shall annually register their property marks in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer. Such marks shall consist of a device to be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer, and the fee for registration shall be Re. 1 (one) for first registration, and four annas for each subsequent annual renewal. A certificate of registration showing the device registered shall be given to each person registering his mark, and a copy of the certificate shall be forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner. Marks shall ordinarily be registered to hold good for one route or line of export only, but any person may register the same mark for use on more than one route, subject to the payment of a separate fee for each such line of route.

Registration of property marks, and fees to be paid for the same.

VIII. Any person infringing any provision of these rules shall be punished with imprisonment of either description, which may extend to six months, or with fine, which may extend to Rs. 500, or with both.

Penalty clause.

Notification of 31st July 1882.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to order that the following additions be made to the revenue stations included in Rule II of the river rules of the Chittagong Hill Tracts dated 17th October 1881, published in the *Calcutta Gazettee* of the 19th idem :—

1. Sialbukka. | 2. Raja's Hat. | 3. Fatikcherry.

13.—SUPPLEMENTARY RULES AND ORDERS UNDER THE CHITTAGONG RIVER RULES.

A.—BY GOVERNMENT.

Notification dated the 17th October 1881.

UNDER the provisions of rule V of the river rules for the Chittagong Hill Tracts of this date, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to order that the royalty on timber or forest produce exported from the Chittagong Hill Tracts shall be levied at an *ad valorem* rate of 10 per cent on the market value of such produce. The Deputy Commissioner shall, under the advice of the District Forest Officer, and subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the Division, from time to time draw up a table of values of all descriptions of forest produce likely to be exported, and may from time to time, with the like advice and approval, correct, modify, or alter such table of values.

The value of all forest produce shall for the purposes of this rule be deemed to be that specified in the said table. Such table shall, when approved by the Commissioner, be published at all the revenue stations, and be otherwise made generally known, and all modifications or corrections of the said table shall be similarly notified.

B.—By the Commissioner of Chittagong.

It is hereby ordered that all persons desirous of proceeding into the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the purpose of exporting timber or forest produce from forest tracts not being reserved forests shall apply for a pass at one of the following revenue stations:—

Fenny,	Karnafuli,	Tankawati,
Droong,	Sylock,	Matamori,
Haldah,	Sungoo,	Eadgong,
Kalapaneea,	Dolu,	Bagkhali,
Surtah,	Rezu,	
Ishamati,	Hangar,	

and shall be entitled to receive the same (in the absence of any lawful objection) on payment of eight annas for each person. The holders of such passes shall be bound to produce the same, when called upon to do so, by any revenue, forest, or public officer, within the limits of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, or at any point on the rivers above the revenue stations herein described.

The officers in charge of revenue stations shall, for all sums realised by them, grant receipts in forms from time to time to be prescribed by the Conservator of Forests. All passes issued shall be given up at the revenue station where the produce covered by them is examined and paid for.

C.—By the Conservator of Forests.

Notification dated 20th July 1882.

In supersession of the notification of the 19th January 1882, the Conservator of Forests hereby notifies, with reference to Rule III of the Chittagong river rules of the 17th October 1881, that the following will until further orders be the payments to be levied on forest produce removed from the reserved forests of the Chittagong Hill Tracts:—

Timber.

Class of Timber	Rates of Payment per Cubic Foot.			Rate of payment each	
	Logs.	Scantlings.	Dugout b ats and kondhas.	House posts, and poles.	
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P.		Rs. A. P.
First class .	0 4 0	0 5 0	Prohibited		... .
Second class ...	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 4 6		.. ...
Third class	0 2 0	0 3 0	0 3 0		..
Fourth class ...	0 1 0	0 1 6	0 1 6	House posts, poles.	0 4 0 0 2 0

The classification of timber referred to in the above schedule is as follows:—

1st class.—Jarul.

2nd class.—Chaplis, kandeb, toon, gamhar, chikrasi, tali, telsur, nagesar.

3rd class.—Gurjun, jam, boilam, pitraj, badana, koroi, uriam, kurful, banderhola, bairaj, chaulmugri, bhal, chakua, tchangri.

4th class.—All other kinds.

Other produce.

	Per thousand. Rs. A. P.	
Orah and mitengah bamboos	7 0 0	
Dolu bamboos	4 0 0	
Mooli	2 0 0	
Canes	1 8 0	
Sungrass	2 8 0	Bundles of ½ foot in girth each.
Kuruchhpat leaves	2 0 0	
	Per maund.	
Gurjun oil	1 0 0	
Chaulmugri seed	1 0 0	

14.—FIRE PROTECTION RULES.

Notification dated 15th December 1880.

THE following rules, passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal under section 75 (*d*) of the Indian Forest Act VII of 1878, are hereby published for general information. These rules apply to the districts of Darjeeling and Julpigori,* and will hold good during the season in which fires may be expected to occur—from 1st November in one year to the 1st June in the next.

1. Any person living in the vicinity of a Government forest reserve, or occupying or using land in such vicinity, and desirous of clearing by fire any standing forest or grass land near that reserve, in a locality from which such fire would be likely to endanger the reserve, shall observe the following rules:—

(1.) He shall give notice of at least one week to the nearest Forest Officer, Ranger, or Forester, of his intention.

(2.) He shall clear a belt of land, at least 20 feet broad, on the side of the land he proposes to burn nearest to the forest reserve.

(3.) He shall choose for such burning a day or time when a high wind is not blowing.

(4.) He shall light the fire in a direction contrary to the prevailing wind.

2. Any such person desirous of burning, on land adjoining a forest reserve, wood, grass, or weeds, or other cut material, shall collect that material into heaps, and burn it separately in such a way that the fire may not endanger the forest reserve.

* *Note.*—Extended to the districts of Hazaribagh and Lohardugga by Notification of the 3rd December 1881.

3. Any person collecting inflammable forest produce, such as grass and bamboos, on land adjoining a forest reserve, and any holder of a permit to collect such materials from the forest reserve, shall stack the material so collected in an open space, as far removed as possible from the forest.

4. All persons travelling on roads passing through or along the boundary of a forest reserve, shall camp only at such places as may be cleared and set apart for the purpose of camping-grounds by the Forest Officer, who shall yearly publish a list of such grounds in the vicinity of the reserve. Camping at other localities than those so set apart is forbidden; and all persons so camping shall light any fires they may make for cooking or other purposes in such a way as not to endanger the forest reserve or the buildings or property on the camping-ground and they shall, besides, extinguish all such fires before leaving the camping-ground.

5. The carriage of burning wood, fire-brands, or torches, through or along the boundary of any reserved forest is prohibited.

These rules will hold good during the season in which fires may be expected to occur, viz. from the 1st November in one year to the 1st June in the next.*

SUGGESTIONS.

A good plan of burning over a block of jungle is to light it first on the leeward side, and when it has burnt about half way through, to light it again to windward; the two fires meeting go out, and the danger of the fire spreading is enormously lessened.

All persons should as far as lies in their power, give their assistance in extinguishing fires which may spring up, in giving warning to their neighbours, and in taking other measures which may occur to them as useful for the protection of property.

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* 15.—TEESTA DIVISION GRAZING RULES.

Notification of 21st February 1882.

THE following rules, which have been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor and will come into force from the 1st April 1882, are published for general information:—

Rule I.—For the purposes of these rules the forest will be divided into—

1. Lower forest.
2. Upper forest.

The lower forest will be composed of the forests along the valleys of the Rangpo and Teesta, viz. the lower part of the Dumsong, the Kalimpung, the lower part of the Rinkinpung, the Tunang, and the Nazzeokh forest reserves, as well as the forests of the lower hills including the Teesta—Chel range, the Suckam block, the northern Tondoo, and the lower portions of the Nar and Jaldaka forests. The upper

* *Note.*—In Hazaribagh and Lohardugga districts from 1st January to 1st July in each year.

forest will contain the remainder of the forest reserved or proposed to be reserved.

Rule II.—Grazing in the lower forest will not be permitted except under monthly permits to be obtained from the officer in charge of the range, on payment of such fees as the Conservator of Forests may fix from time to time. The localities in which such officer may be authorised to grant permits will be fixed annually in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 97 of the Forest Department Code.

Rule III.—Grazing in the upper forest will be reserved primarily for cultivators who are tenants of Government in the Kalimpung subdivision. Any such person who wishes to graze his cattle in the upper forest shall take out a quarterly pass for that purpose on or before the first day in each quarter at the office of the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, and shall pay for such pass at the following rates:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
For each buffalo	0	4	0
„ bullock, cow, pony ...	0	2	0
„ sheep or goat	0	1	0

or at such reduced rates as the Conservator of Forests, with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner, may from time to time prescribe. Persons who are not residents of the Kalimpung sub-division may be permitted to graze their cattle in these forests on payment of the rates which may from time to time be fixed by the Conservator of Forests.

Rule IV.—The mandals (33 in number) of the different blocks will be permitted to graze, free of charge, in the upper forest, such cattle as are *bonâ fide* their own personal property. Any of these mandals may apply for permission to the Deputy Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner of Kalimpung, who will obtain for him from the Divisional Forest Officer the permit for such cattle as he may consider him entitled to graze. In all respects other than the payment of fees such permits shall be held to be permits granted under Rule III of the rules, and the holders shall be bound to carry out all the provisions of these rules. If in any case the Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner shall consider it necessary to refuse to apply for the permit, he shall be at liberty to do so, and the applicant shall then be entitled to graze his cattle only upon payment of the fees prescribed in Rule III.

Rule V —All such permits shall expire on the last day in each quarter, viz. June 30th, September 30th, December 31st, and March 31st, respectively; and permits for portions of a quarter shall be counted as for a whole quarter.

Rule VI.—The permits shall fix the forest block or compartment in which the privilege of grazing may be exercised, and the block or compartment shall be selected by the Divisional Officer with due regard to the convenience of the permit-holder, provided that at least one-half the area of the upper forest shall always be made available for such grazing.

Rule VII.—The construction of grazing camps, enclosures, or *bathans*, shall be permitted in such blocks or compartments as may be permanently set appart for that purpose by the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer. For the construction of such grazing camps, enclosures, or *bathans*, permit-holders may utilise such dead and dry wood as may be found in the vicinity, and, with the permission of the Forest Officer previously obtained, canes and bamboos. Should sufficient dry wood not be available, the Divisional Forest Officer or his subordinates may allow trees of the less valuable kinds, of less girth than 18 inches, to be cut on payment of a fee of six pies for each tree so cut. No charge shall be made for canes, bamboos, or dry wood.

Rule VIII.—The cutting of saplings and loppings off the branches of trees is prohibited. This rule should not be held to apply to bamboos or the small species of *Aralia (chinia)*.

Rule IX.—Any person in charge of cattle grazing under a permit shall be bound to keep his permit ready for inspection, and to show it on demand to any Forest Officer visiting the *bathans*.

Rule X.—All permits, on the expiry of the term for which they are granted must be returned to the Office of issue.

15.—RULES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF, AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN, THE CHITTAGONG FOREST DIVISION.

Rules for the administration of Forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

THE Conservator of Forests is responsible for, and has the complete control of, all professional, departmental, and financial matters, and he will take the initiative in all these matters as regards the reserved forests. His orders will be communicated to the District Forest Officer through the Deputy Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who will have power to direct the District Forest Officer to suspend action on them, but must report his having done so to the Conservator of Forests and to the Commissioner of Chittagong.

2. When on tours of inspection, the Conservator will, as a matter of course, give instructions verbally to the District Forest Officer; but all such instructions should be reduced to writing, and should be communicated by the District Forest Officer to the Deputy Commissioner, who must be kept regularly informed of all communications between the Conservator and the District Forest Officer.

3. The Conservator will continue to correspond direct with the District Forest Officer in a demi-official manner; but whenever his communications are of the nature of orders, the District Forest Officer must take an early opportunity of submitting them to the Deputy Commissioner.

4. In regard to the open or unreserved forests, it will ordinarily rest with the Deputy Commissioner to take the initiative, the management of all forest matters in the district resting with the District Forest Officer acting under the orders of the Deputy Comissioner, who will be assisted, if necessary, with the advice of the Conservator.

5. At the commencement of each official year the District Forest Officer will prepare an annual plan of operations, which will be sent for approval to the Conservator of Forests through the Deputy Commissioner, all differences of opinion being referred to the Commissioner, and, if necessary, to Government.

6. All matters of accounts, establishments, sanctions, &c., will be regulated by the provisions of the Forest Department Code.

Rules for the conduct of the office business of the Chittagong division.

1. The Conservator will address all official correspondence to the Assistant Conservator of Forests through the Deputy Commissioner, and enclose it in a cover addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, who will forward it with his observations and orders, if any, to the Assistant Conservator. In like manner the Assistant Conservator will write to the Conservator through the Deputy Commissioner, who will countersign the letters and forward them.

2. A great part of the correspondence between the Assistant Conservator and the Deputy Commissioner, which does not require to be sent to the Conservator, will for convenience be carried on in the form of office notes.

3. The accounts will not be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, but direct to the Assistant Comptroller-General. But the copy of the abstract of revenue and expenditure, which is now sent to the Conservator, will in future be forwarded through the Deputy Commissioner, who will thus be enabled to make any remarks he may think fit.

4. Travelling allowance bills will be submitted together once a month to the Conservator through the Deputy Commissioner, who will countersign the forwarding docket. The Conservator will return them after check and passing in the same way.

5. The list of rates of payment to be levied on open forest produce will be prepared from those received by the Deputy Commissioner from time to time from the Collector of Chittagong.

6. All other matters will be regulated by the Forest Department Code, including that of patronage, the Forest Officer having the appointment and dismissal of all forest guards and power to fine foresters and rangers, the appointment and dismissal of foresters and rangers resting with the Conservator. Correspondence on this subject will of course pass through the Deputy Commissioner's hands, who will make any observations he may desire.

W. H. D'C.—Reg. No. 7572J—200—5-10-82.